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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A luminaire has a light reduction cover element below and in proximity to the active light source of the luminaire to simulate a larger light source having a lower surface brightness which is exposed through the luminaire's down light opening. For example, where the luminaire has a high output T5 lamp, the light reduction cover element can be in the form of a substantially semi-cylindrical opal diffuser cover strip sized to simulate a T8 or T12 lamp. An opal diffuser cover strip having two side-by-side arcuate portions joined at opaque interior edges can be positioned under two side-by-side T5 lamps to simulate side-by-side T8 or T12 lamps. For a direct-indirect luminaires the brightness characteristics of the exposed light source is governed by the lower brightness mock light source, while the uplight distribution of the luminaire is produced from the higher intensity light emitted from the top surface portions of the T5 lamp (or other active light source) for maximum control over the indirect lighting component of the luminaire.

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